



~ Clean Water ~ A Partnership Approach *"Alabama Style"*



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Executive Director
Alabama Clean Water Partnership

EVGMAC WORKGROUP #2A
FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Alabama Water Facts



- Over **33 trillion gallons** of freshwater flows through Alabama every year
- **77,000 miles** of streams
- **14** major river basins

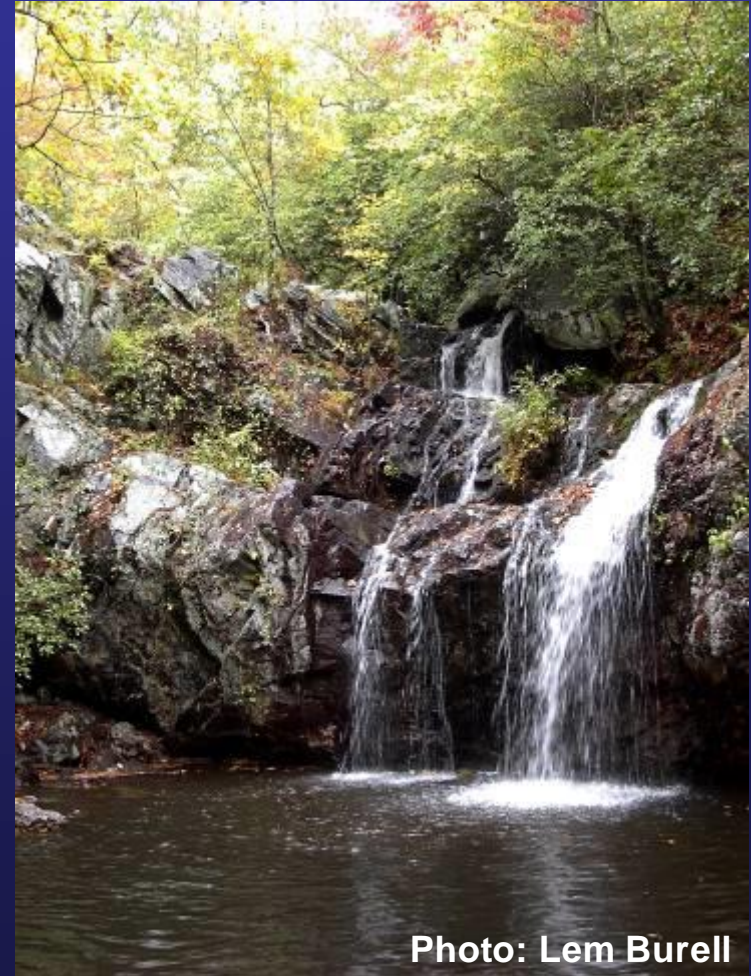


Photo: Lem Burell



One-twelfth of all the ocean-flowing water in the U.S. travels through Alabama.



National Ranking - #1 aquatic diversity



Photos from Alabama Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy - DCNR

Alabama is Number One! (But Why?)

This state is home to some of the highest aquatic biodiversity in all of North America.



**1st in freshwater fish
@ 317 species**



**1st in freshwater mussels
@ 178 species**

**a highly-oxygenated
upland stream
environment**



**close-up of
aquatic snails**

Slide: Dr. Jim Lacefield



**1st in crayfish
@ 85 species**

**1st in freshwater snails
@ 174 species**



**snapping turtle
hatchling**

1st in turtles @ 27 species



Photo compliments of Scott Sanderford



Photo Compliments of Ashley Henderson



Photo compliments of Janet Wofford

At least **57%** of Alabama residents participate in outdoor recreation each year.

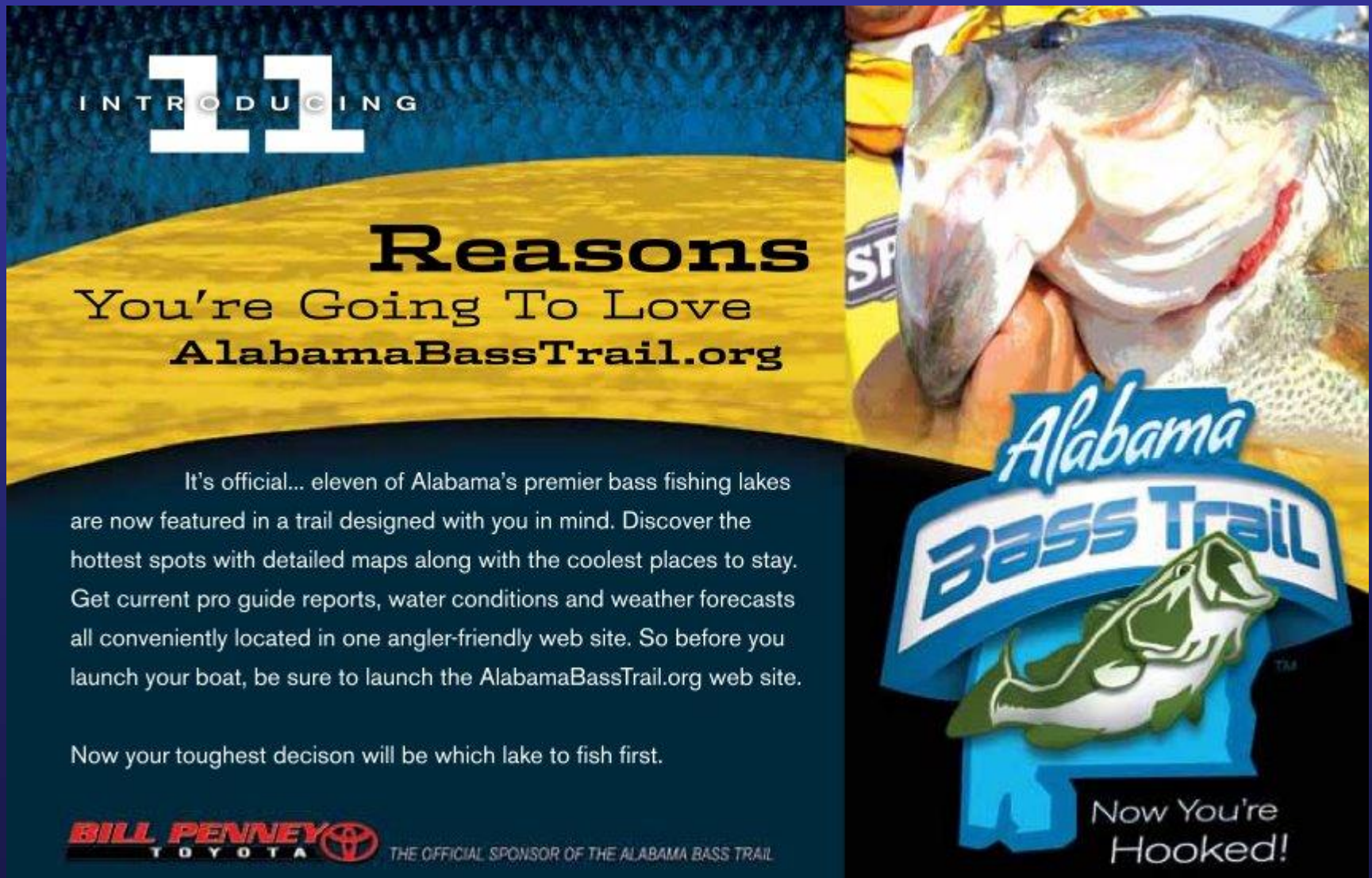
In Alabama, Outdoor Recreation Generates:

- **\$7.5 BILLION** in consumer spending
 - **86,000** direct Alabama jobs
- **\$2.0 BILLION** in wages and salaries
- **\$494 MILLION** in state & local tax revenue

Outdoor Industry Assn. February 2013

http://www.outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/AL-alabama-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf

Alabama Bass Trail

A promotional graphic for the Alabama Bass Trail. The background is split into a blue textured top and a yellow bottom. On the right, there's a close-up of a largemouth bass's head. The text 'INTRODUCING' is in small white letters above a large white '11'. Below that, 'Reasons' is in large bold black letters, followed by 'You're Going To Love' and 'AlabamaBassTrail.org' in a typewriter font. A paragraph of text describes the trail's features. At the bottom left is the 'BILL PENNEY TOYOTA' logo with the text 'THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE ALABAMA BASS TRAIL'. On the right, there's a blue logo with 'Alabama Bass Trail' and a fish illustration, with the tagline 'Now You're Hooked!' below it.

INTRODUCING


11

Reasons

You're Going To Love
AlabamaBassTrail.org

It's official... eleven of Alabama's premier bass fishing lakes are now featured in a trail designed with you in mind. Discover the hottest spots with detailed maps along with the coolest places to stay. Get current pro guide reports, water conditions and weather forecasts all conveniently located in one angler-friendly web site. So before you launch your boat, be sure to launch the AlabamaBassTrail.org web site.

Now your toughest decision will be which lake to fish first.

BILL PENNEY
TOYOTA  THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE ALABAMA BASS TRAIL


Alabama Bass Trail

Now You're Hooked!

Photo Credit: <https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaBassTrail>

Water - An Increasingly Scarce Commodity

Water - Closer to Home

Since 1990, the states of **Alabama, Florida and Georgia** have been "negotiating" water rights between the states, with no resolution to date.

There are recent tensions regarding the sharing of water from the Tombigbee River Basin with **Mississippi**. A MOU has been signed between the University of AL, Auburn University and MS State University to work constructively together to ward off a "water war" between the two states.



ACWP Mission



Bring interested citizens and water users **together** through a **neutral** forum in order to identify water related issues and challenges and become part of the **solution** for long-term water quality improvement and conservation in a **non-regulatory** way.

TRUST

ACWP neutral stakeholder process allows positive relationships between stakeholders to develop thru local group initiatives, creating a "team approach" rather than stakeholders first being introduced under more "trying" circumstances.

What is a Partnership?

- *A Partnership is a special kind of relationship in which people or organizations*
- *Combine their resources*
- *To carry out a specific set of activities.*



What is a Partnership?



Partners work together for a common purpose and for mutual benefit.

Benefits of Partnerships

- $1 + 1 = 2^3$ Exponential results through cooperation
- Gaining access to the skills of others
- Mutual support and enthusiasm
- Seeing opportunities through other's eyes

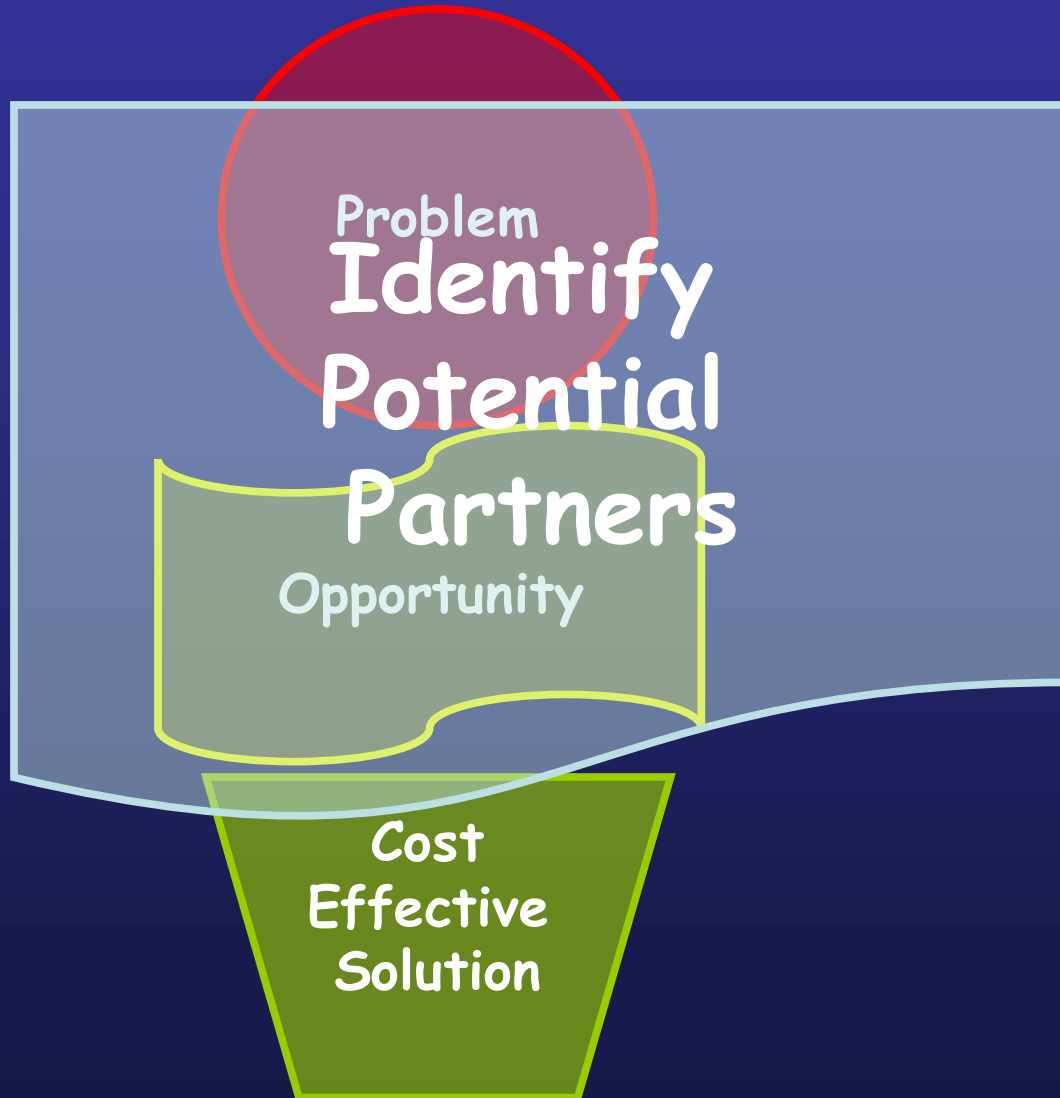


What does the ACWP do?

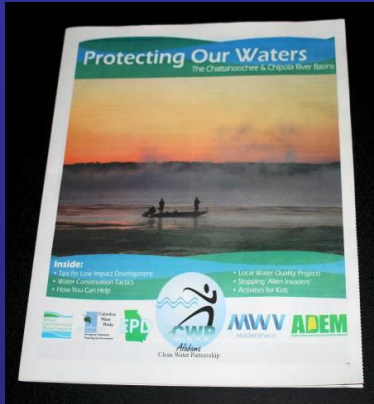
- Education
 - Adult
 - Youth
 - Government
- On the ground projects
- Quarterly **NEUTRAL** stakeholder forums



Project Development



ACWP Past Projects



Educational Newspaper Inserts

Water Conservation Kits



Hooked on the AL River "Festival of Fishing Lures"

Conflict Resolution



Stream Restoration



Educational Workshops



NEUTRAL Stakeholder Forums



ACWP Projects

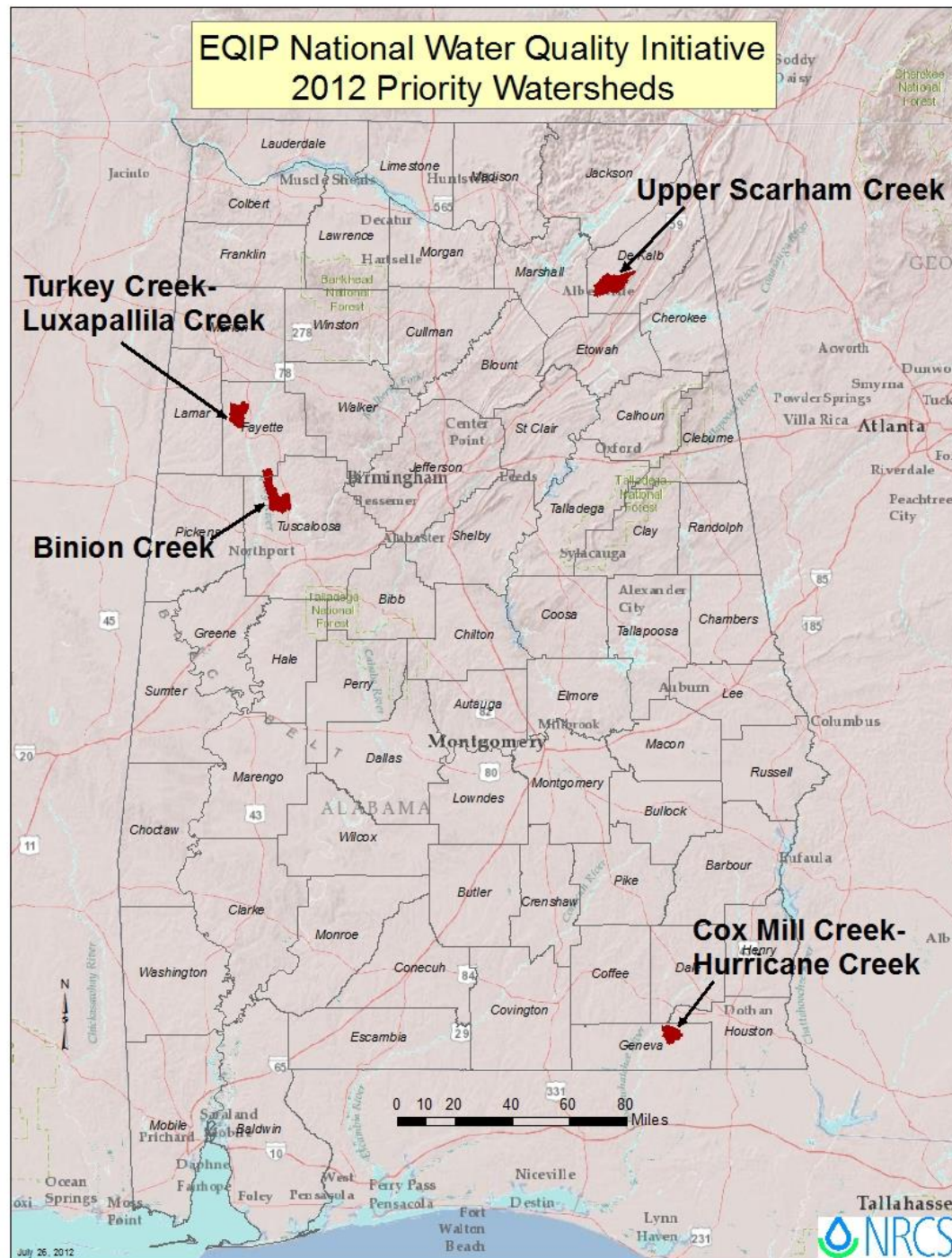






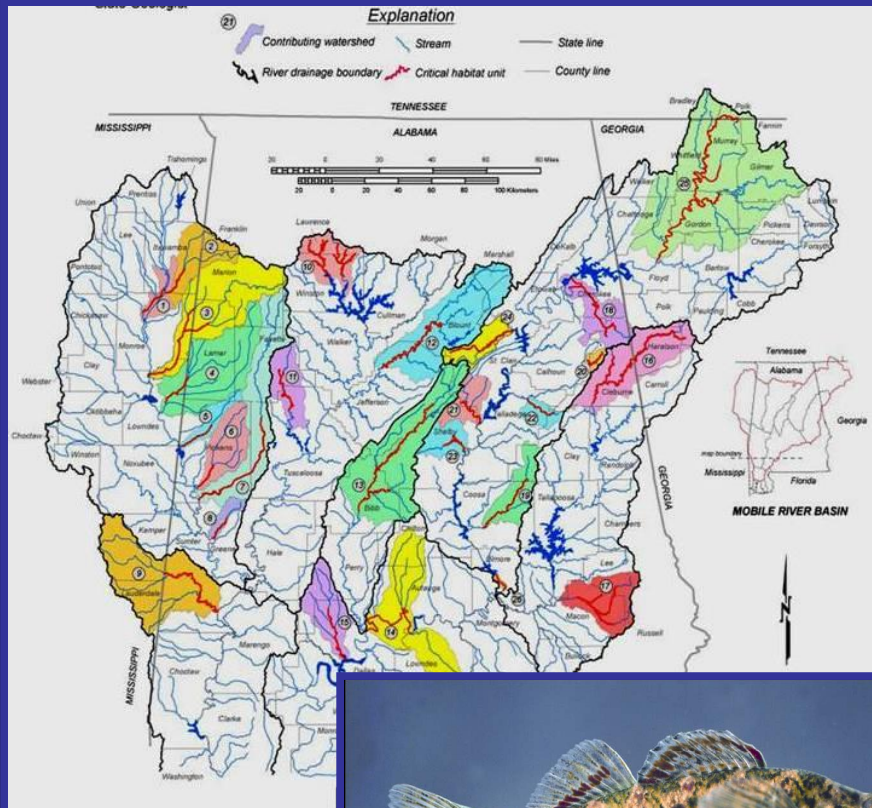
NRCS National Water Quality Initiative

ACWP working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to compile prioritized lists (by basin) of watersheds where future stream protection or restoration opportunities exist.

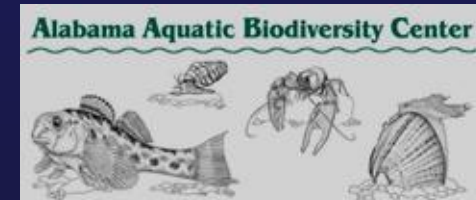


Show Me Your Mussel!

Citizen Involvement and Education
in designated Strategic Habitat Units across
the state



In partnership with:





ACWP History



- Outgrowth of 1998 Federal Clean Water Action Plan initiative, coordinated in Alabama by ADEM & NRCS
- Continued under new name of Alabama Clean Water Partnership when Federal initiative discontinued
- ACWP incorporated in 2001 as 501(c)(3) nonprofit; Designed to support, not compete!
- Mike Godfrey, Alabama Power, Manager of Environmental Compliance, Chairman of the Board (Previous chairs: AL Pulp & Paper Council, AL Power, University of West AL)

ACWP Purposes

(Per ACWP Non-advocacy Policy, 2001)

The Board agreed that for the ACWP to maintain its neutrality, respect and credibility it must continue to focus on its core purposes as specified in the ACWP Articles of Incorporation, adopted July 17, 2001. These purposes are:

1. To restore and protect Alabama river basins in accordance with the goals of the Federal Clean Water Act,

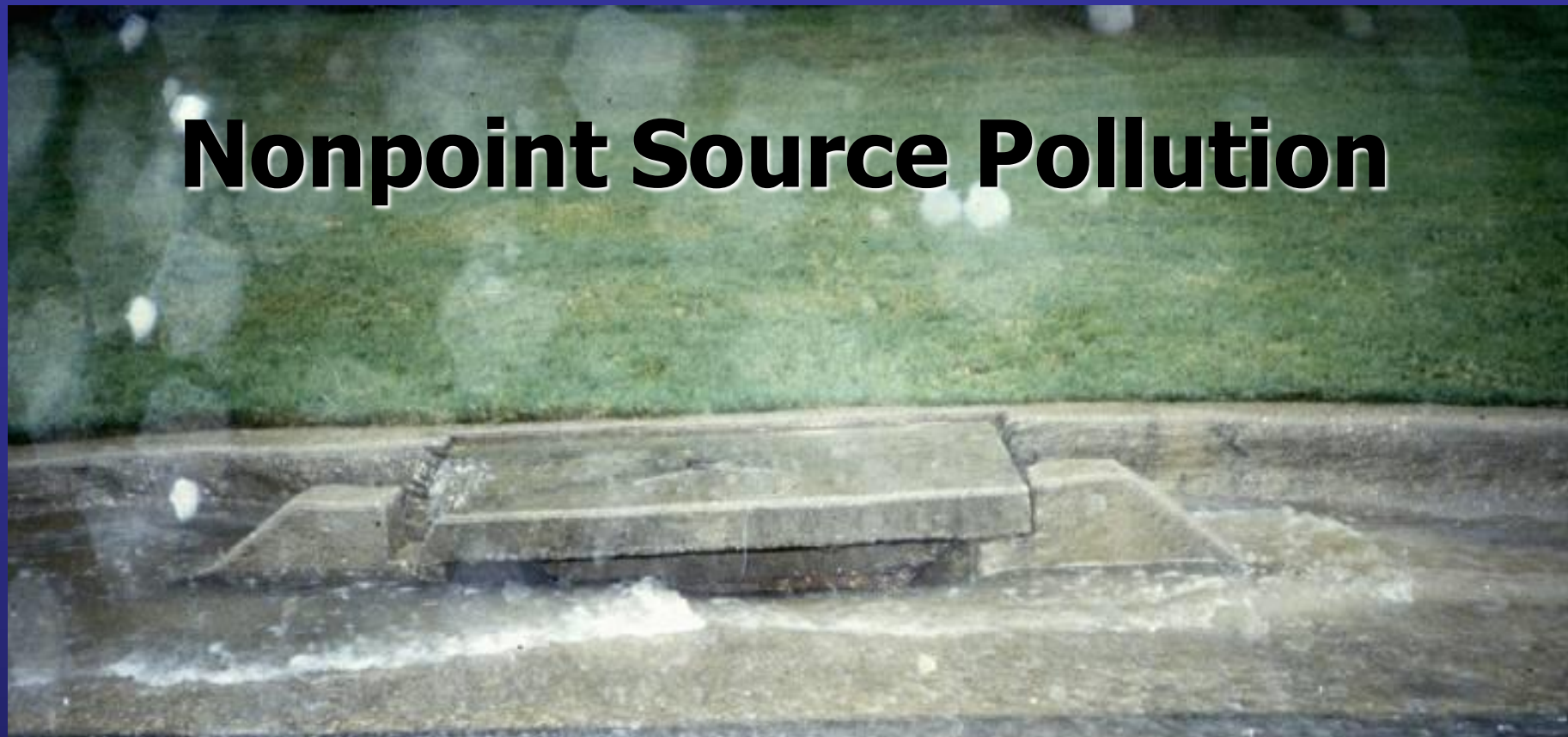
2. To coordinate a state-wide watershed management approach to safeguard water quality in Alabama in designated river basins, and

3. To develop collaborative programs that meet multiple needs, eliminate duplication of tasks and allow for effective and efficient use of available resources in order to restore, protect and enhance the various designated river basins and aquatic ecosystems located in the State of Alabama and develop local watershed protection programs to benefit the citizens of the State of Alabama.

Benefits to Participants



Nonpoint Source Pollution



The Watershed Approach

Uses watersheds or drainage basins
(rather than political boundaries)
to coordinate the management of
water resources,
considering all activities within the
landscape that affect watershed
health.

A Watershed



"Watershed Approach"

Recognizes competing needs:

Water Supply

Water Quality

Waste Assimilation

Flood Control

Navigation

Hydropower Generation

Fisheries

Biodiversity & Habitat Preservation

Recreation

Quality of Life

Property Values

ACWP Board of Directors

- AL Department of Environmental Management
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- AL Soil & Water Conservation Committee
- Alabama Department of Public Health
- Alabama Power Company
- Alabama Farmers Federation
- Engineering Firm (Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood)
- Local Utilities: Montgomery, Dothan,
Birmingham, Madison Co.
- Manufacture Alabama / Toray CFA
- AL Wildlife Federation

ACWP Board of Directors

- On-site and Decentralized Wastewater
- Navigational Interests
- RC&D Councils
- University of West AL
- Geological Survey of AL
- Home Builders Association of AL
- AL Department of Transportation
- ADECA - Office of Water Resources
- Phase I/II Municipality (Madison County)
- The Nature Conservancy

Other Strong Partners

- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- AL Forestry Commission
- AL Cooperative Extension System
- AL Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Multiple municipalities across the state

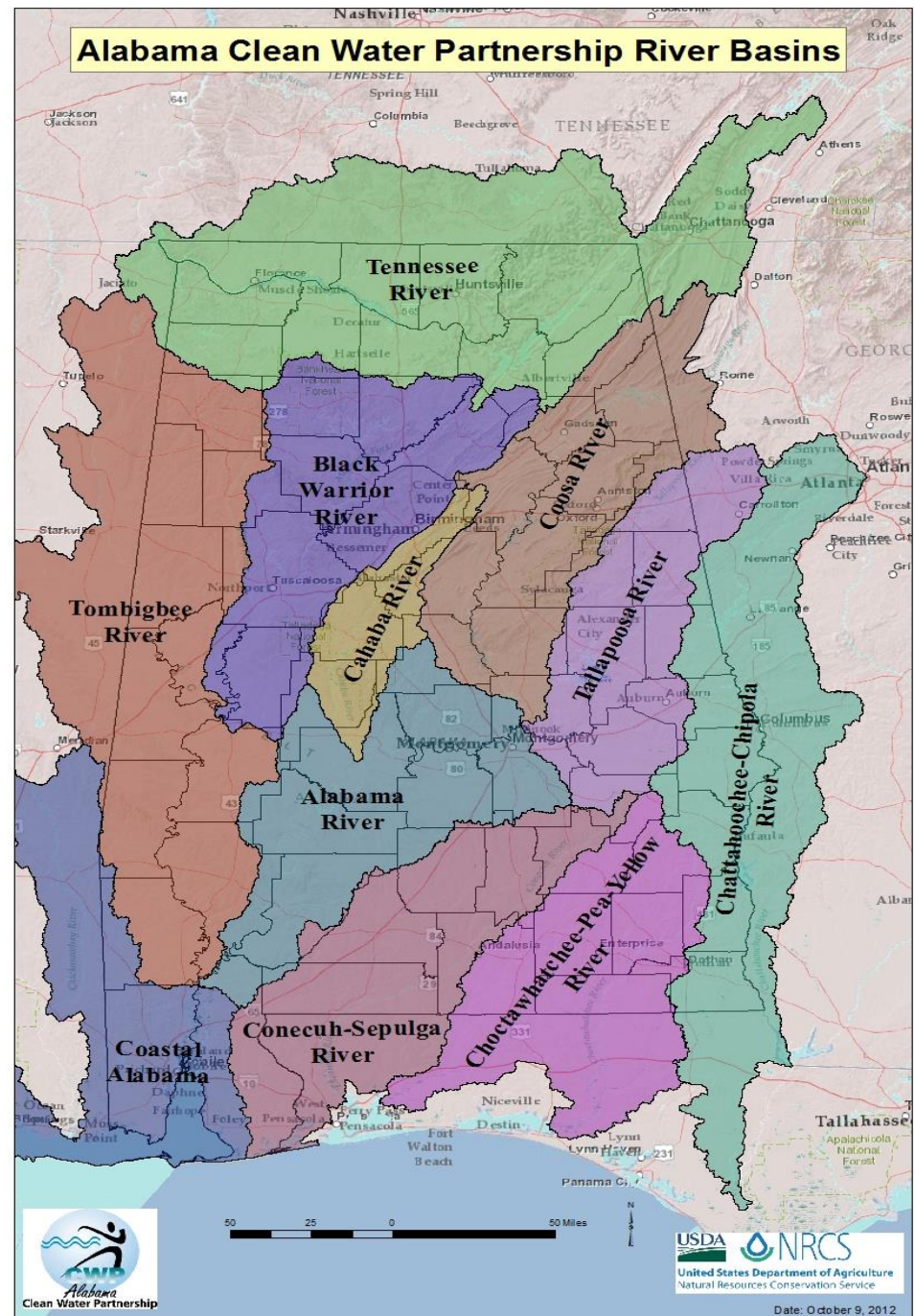
ACWP Basins

11 River Basins
(including shared
watersheds of
neighboring states)

Each basin has a
neutral Sponsor(s),
Steering Committee
&
Basin Facilitator



Map courtesy of NRCS



Basin Sponsors

Hold facilitator contracts, provide expense \$

- **Alabama** – AL Pulp & Paper Council, Montgomery Water Works
- **Black Warrior** – Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, AL Association of RC&D Councils
- **Cahaba** – Cawaco RC&D Council, AL Association of RC&D Councils
- **Chattahoochee-Chipola** – Tri Rivers Waterway Development Assn.

Basin Sponsors

- **Choctawhatchee-Pea-Yellow** – Wiregrass RC&D Council, AL Association of RC&D Councils
- **Coastal Alabama** – Mobile & Baldwin Co. Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
 - **Conecuh-Sepulga-Blackwater** – Georgia-Pacific, Poarch Creek Band of Creek Indians

Basin Sponsors

- **Coosa** – Coosa Valley RC&D Council, AL Association of RC&D Councils
- **Tallapoosa** – Montgomery Water Works
- **Middle Tallapoosa** – City of Alexander City, Lake Martin Economic Development Alliance, Montgomery Water Works
- **Tennessee** – Alabama Mountains, Rivers and Valleys RC&D Council, AL Association of RC&D Councils
- **Tombigbee** – Alabama Farmers Federation

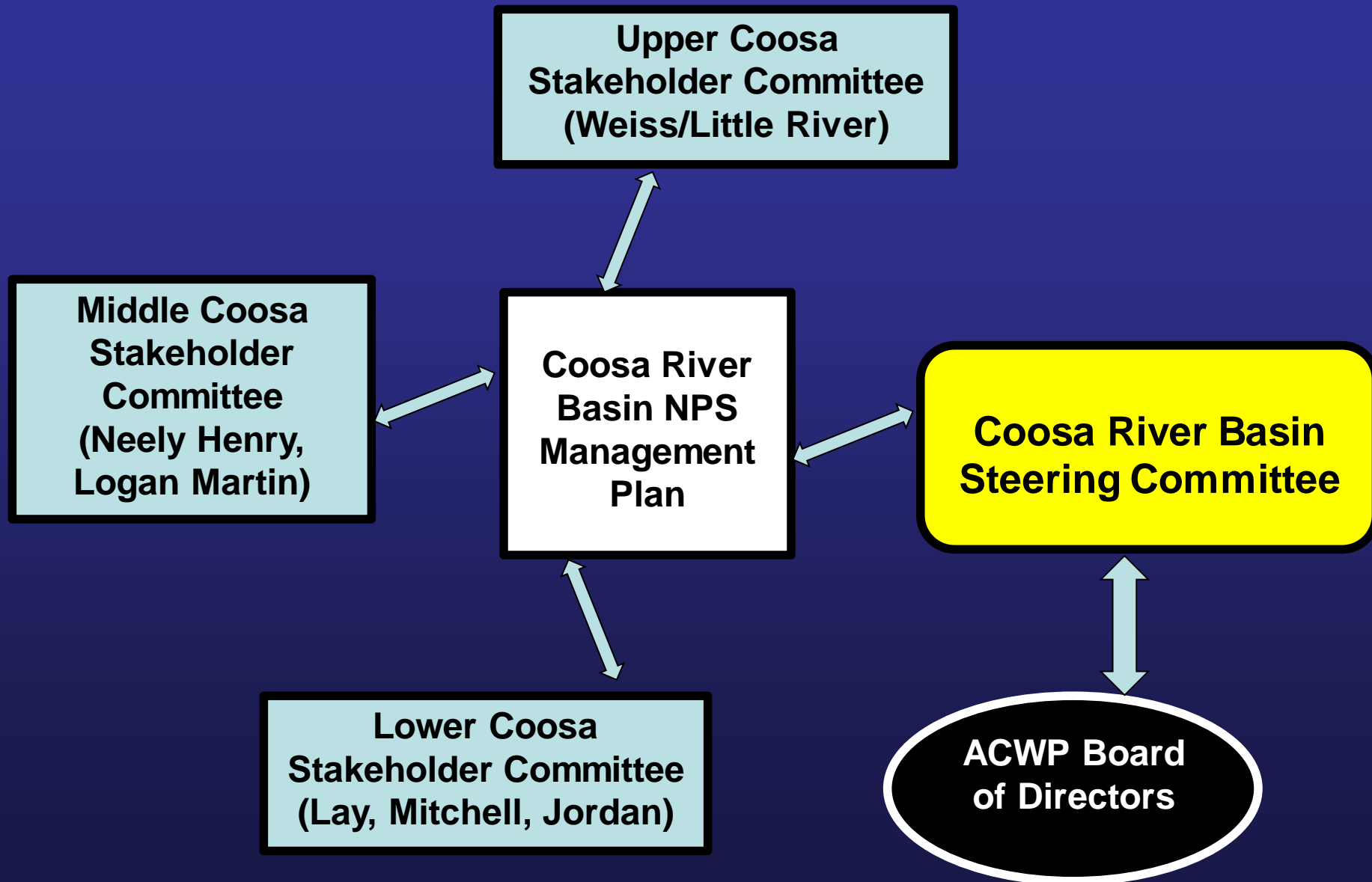
Meet your Basin Facilitator !!!



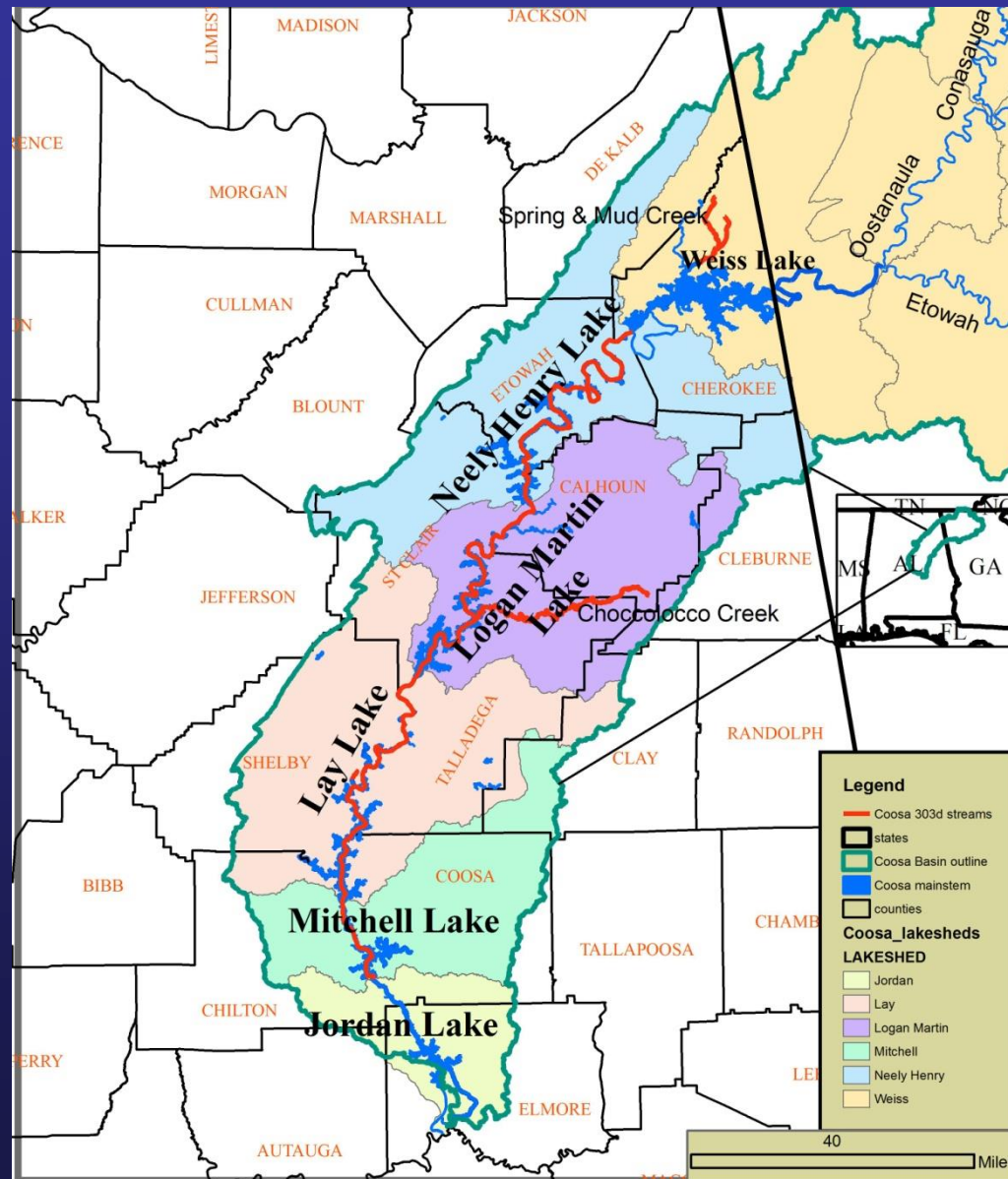
<http://go.to/funpic>



Coosa CWP Basin Structure



The Coosa River Watershed



Who Should Participate?

Stakeholders:

- Directly (and indirectly) affected by the issue
- With the resources needed to resolve the issue
 - With authority to implement the decisions
- With the ability to block the process or prevent implementation

Stakeholder Categories

- State Regulatory Agencies (ADEM, ADPH, OSM)
- Other Agencies (USGS, USACOE, USF&W, GSA, DCNR, AFC, ADECA)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Soil and Water Conservation Committee/Districts
- Elected Officials (Municipal, County)
- Regional Planning Commissions, Regional Councils of Government
- Environmental Group(s) (AWWA, ARA, Nature Conservancy, HOBOs, local nonprofits)
- Permitted Industry (Business Council of AL, Manufacture AL)

Stakeholder Categories, Cont.

- Marine Industry
- Recreation (State Parks, Trail Groups, ASRT)
- Economic Development
- Hydro Power/Utilities
- Public Works
- Builders/Developers (Homebuilders, AGC)
- Agriculture (AL Farmers Federation)
- Forestry (Industry, Private landowners, AFA)
- Mining/Minerals
- Wildlife (AWF, BASS, Ducks Unlimited, local hunting/fishing groups)
- Resource Conservation & Development Councils
- Education (Universities, Jr. Colleges, Legacy)

Its Not WHAT You Know But WHO You Know And WHO They Know!

**"Key"
Local
Person**



**County
Commissioner**

**Local Boards
and Agencies**

Business

Why has ADEM funded since 1999?



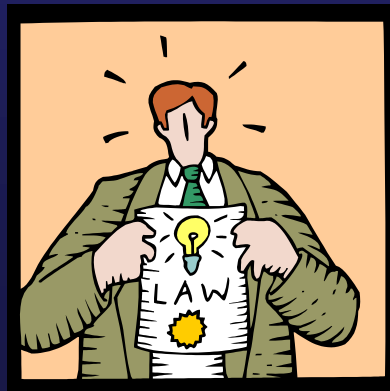
STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT &
EDUCATION

TMDL IMPLEMENTATION

MS4 SUPPORT

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS
& PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

SUCCESS STORIES



ACWP Neutrality Policy

"It was noted that the ACWP should remain **unbiased and independent**, not taking stands either for or against specific issues that arise in the sub-basins, such as permit issues. It was stated that the ACWP is **not an advocacy organization**, the purpose of the ACWP being to **cooperatively** promote clean water."

"It was also noted that the premise behind the ACWP is that it is a consensus based forum where stakeholders can come together to discuss issues and challenges and educate stakeholders regarding **all sides** of an issue, and that **taking a stand for one stakeholder group would alienate the other**, which goes against the mission statement of the ACWP. "

"Stakeholders know best how to address specific challenges within their particular watershed and should take on the activist role, whereas ACWP basin and sub-basin meetings can provide a neutral format through which all sides of an issue may be presented. In effect, local stakeholders take on the activist role, whereas the ACWP provides the institutional infrastructure and expertise for public discussion of specific issues."

**MAPPING THE FUTURE OF
ALABAMA WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT:
Policy Options and Recommendations**



A Report to
The Honorable Robert Bentley
Governor of Alabama
by the
Alabama Water Agencies Working Group
December 1, 2013

ACWP AWAG Involvement

ACWP hopes neutral basin forums will be useful in future water quantity efforts at basin level and therefore has not been “engaged” in the AL water policy debate.

The ACWP has:

- Encouraged stakeholders to provide comments to make their positions known
 - Promoted all AWAG meetings
- Jenkins sits on AWAG Local/Regional Planning Focus Panel

Water Quality Considerations

- Lack of Water Quality data for many streams due to tight budgets;
- 7Q10: 7 day, 10 year low flow period, used as baseline for NPDES permits;
"The solution to pollution is dilution"
- Lack of flow causes habitat degradation affecting endangered and threatened species, leading to species listing and additional regulation;

Be Informed. . . Get Involved!

Allison Jenkins, Executive Director
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www.CleanWaterPartnership.org